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a roller portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on said medium; and

a shaft portion supported in a bracket and disposed through said roller portion, wherein said roller portion rotates around said shaft portion so as to move by the thickness of said medium, [and] wherein the shaft portion is not rotably connected to the feed roller, and wherein the roller portion is not vertically aligned with the at least one feed roller.

2. (Amended) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft;

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the feed of the medium, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with the at least one align roller.

3. (Amended) The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one align roller comprises at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction and further comprising a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction, wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between the lateral and vertical align rollers.

10. (Amended) A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft;

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(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the feed of the medium, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with the at least one align roller.

12. (Amended) The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the at least one align roller comprises at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction and wherein the medium feeding apparatus further comprises a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction, wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between the lateral and vertical align rollers.

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The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 to discuss these proposed amendments to the claims.

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